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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES

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April 20, 2004

Ms. Robin Sweeney, EIS Document Manager
Office of National Transportation
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
US Department of Energy
1551 Hillshire Drive, M/S 011
Las Vegas, NV 89134

RE: Intent to Prepare EIS for Yucca Mountain Rail Line

Dear Mr. Strolin,

On behalf of the Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses, we have reviewed the Federal Register notice requesting scoping information for a pending Environmental Impact Statement. To our best knowledge, the seven proposed routes traverse several Bureau of Land Management Field Office Resource Areas. We are unaware of any land use plan that designates specific corridors for new railways.

Within these BLM Field Offices, the land use plans delineate wild horse and burro herd management areas. The Wild Horse and Burro Act guarantees each herd full access to their herd management area to retain their free roaming nature, not just in Nevada, but nationwide. To this end, the EIS must identify all possible impacts and how the cumulative impacts to each herd. Possible mitigation could include avoidance of key areas and underpasses to assure access throughout the herd management areas, which again, are guaranteed to them by law. Any construction being proposed should address work by seasonal use including impacts to the foaling season, migration, and disruption of access to water sources.

We hope these issues will assist the contractor with the preparation of the EIS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Catherine Barcomb".

Catherine Barcomb, Administrator